

For Information

Legislative Council Panel on Public Service

**The Government's Response to the Issues
Raised by the Panel at the Meeting on 19 June 2017**

At the meeting of the Panel on Public Service (“the Panel”) on 19 June 2017, the Government was requested to provide the details of the plan to expand the Internship Scheme for Students with Disabilities (“the Scheme”) and to promote the Scheme to non-government organizations (NGOs) and private enterprises.

The Government's Response

2. To promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the Government, Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has launched the Scheme since 2016 for full-time undergraduate students with disabilities studying in local universities and students of the Shine Skills Centre (“Shine”) of Vocational Training Council. The Scheme aims to unleash the potential of persons with disabilities and allow students with disabilities to acquire hands-on work experience in the Government, thereby strengthening their competitiveness in seeking to enter the labour market in future. At the same time, it provides opportunities for bureau/departments (B/Ds) to better appreciate the talent of persons with disabilities.

3. As reported to the Panel at its meeting on 19 June 2017, the number of internship places offered to full-time undergraduate students with disabilities has increased by 60% from 20 last year to 32. The job contents for the interns have also been broadened from conventional administration duties to cover subjects relevant to their fields of study, such as statistical data analysis; translation of documents; development or revamping of web pages, mobile applications or social media platforms; graphic design; preparation of publicity materials; and conducting promotional activities, etc. As regards the second part of the Scheme to

be launched in October 2017 for students of Shine, having consulted the views of Shine, we will increase the targeted number of internship places to be offered from 23 last year to 25. We will suggest to B/Ds that the job contents be enriched to cover tasks relating to basic computer applications, graphics design, and desktop publishing, etc. on which students have been trained. In order to let the interns ease in the working environment, we will provide them with appropriate training and assign a mentor for each of them to render the necessary assistance. In addition, we will arrange sharing sessions after the end of the internship periods for the interns to share their experience with government colleagues.

4. Building on our experience from the implementation of the Scheme, we will further explore how it can be further expanded in 2018 in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including universities and Shine. At the same time, we will follow-up with Labour and Welfare Bureau on how to encourage NGOs and private enterprises to make reference to the Scheme and launch similar internship schemes for students with disabilities. To this end, Home Affairs Bureau rolled out in October 2016 a two-year trial scheme in partnership with NGOs to offer on-site vocational training places in social enterprises for persons with disabilities and other less advantaged groups in Hong Kong to enhance their employment prospect.

5. The Government will report the progress of expanding and promoting the Scheme when we update the Panel in 2018 on the implementation of the relevant measures to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities in the Government.

Civil Service Bureau
August 2017